

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 CTME-00 OMB-01 SP-02 PA-01 ICA-11
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IZ
SUBJECT: EAA REGULATIONS: GOI PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSES U.S.
ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1254, (B) BAGHDAD 1306

1. GOI PLANNING BOARD, CHAIRED BY RCC VICE-CHAIRMAN
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SADDAM HUSSEIN, MET JULY 5 TO DISCUSS IRAQI POLICY CONCERN-
ING AMERICAN ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW. PRESS REPORTS THAT IRAQ VIEWS
THE LAW AS A DANGEROUS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT WEAPONS AVAILABLE IN THE ARAB STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL
AND STATED THAT IT WILL NOT BE PERMISSIBLE TO DEAL WITH
U.S. OR OTHER COMPANIES THAT "VIOLATE THE RULES" OF THE
ARAB BOYCOTT.

2. THE BOARD APPROVED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF THE LAW.

3. COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS DO NOT SPELL OUT THE DETAILS OF DECISIONS REACHED; HOWEVER, A SOURCE CLAIMING LINKS TO IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SAYS HE ATTENDED THE MEETING AND AVERS THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL TIGHTENING UP OF IRAQI BOYCOTT POLICY. HE CLAIMS THAT AUTHORITY TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GRANTED TO DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF STATE ESTABLISHMENTS, PRESIDENTS OF STATE SUPERVISORY ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTERS (REF B) HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AND THAT HENCEFORTH ALL REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO BOYCOTT POLICY MUST BE REFERRED TO THE TRADE REGULATIONS COUNCIL CHAIRED BY RCC MEMBER AND MINISTER OF HOUSING TAHA RAMADHAN (AL-JAZRAWI).

4. SOURCE ALSO CLAIMS THAT GOI HAS BLACKLISTED SEVERAL AMERICAN COMPANIES FOR VIOLATION OF LAW NO. 8 OF 1976 WHICH FORBIDS THE USE OF AGENTS NOT LEGALLY REGISTERED. IF TRUE, THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST SUCH ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AMERICAN COMPANIES UNDER LAW NO. 8.

5. GOI PLANNING BOARD IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL FORUM FOR DETERMINATION OF GOI PLANNING AND ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL POLICIES. PREVIOUSLY, DISCUSSIONS OF BOYCOTT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY HAVE LARGELY TAKEN PLACE IN THE TRADE REGULATION COUNCIL AND THEIR DELIBERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED.

6. USINT HAS REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS PENDING TO DISCUSS LATEST GOI ACTIONS.
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